



ANNUAL BUDGET

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The 2012-13 Budget has been developed within the Council's overall planning framework. The Council's suite of strategic management plans includes a 10-year Long Term Financial Plan supported by an Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan. Council's Strategic Plan 2012-2017 and the Annual Report complete Council's suite of corporate documents.

To guide the preparation of its 2012-13 Budget, the Council prepared and undertook community consultation on a draft Annual Business Plan. Council at its public meeting considered all written submissions and heard verbal presentations from members of the community. Following this Council held workshops with senior staff to consider the submissions made and to consider any new or revised information that was relevant to the material contained in the draft budget.

The Annual Business Plan as adopted provides a linkage between the Council's suite of strategic management plans and its Annual Budget.

SUMMARY OF 2012-13 BUDGET

SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY

The following table summarises the various types of cash flows associated with the services delivered to the community by the Council's organisational units. The Annual Business Plan gives a detailed explanation of the service as well as how the provision of each service satisfies goals and objectives specifically listed in the Council's Strategic Plan.

Organisational Unit / Service	Operating Revenue	Operating Expense	Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	Capital Contributions	Capital Expense
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Council Administration	1,838	477	1,361		21
Business Undertakings	100	106	(6)		
Community Services	10	212	(202)		22
Cultural Services	2	17	(15)		
Economic Development	6	45	(39)		
Environment	628	915	(287)		254
Recreation	17	197	(180)		5
Regulatory Services	23	201	(178)		
Transport	758	1,396	(638)	297	1042
Other Services	795	843	(48)		44
Total	4,177	4,409	(232)	297	1388

ANALYSIS OF OPERATING BUDGET

The table below and following comments summarise the expected revenues and expenses of the Council for the 2012-13 financial year. It also provides commentary on the budgeted operating result for 2011-12.

OPERATING REVENUE

Revenue Types	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
Rates	1,768	1,818	2,218
Statutory Charges	24	22	25
User Charges & Commercial Revenue	61	59	85
Grants and Subsidies	1,542	1,656	1,712
Investment Income	106	102	71
Reimbursements	120	51	31
Other Revenue	85	40	35
Total Operating Revenue	3,706	3,749	4,177

Source: Appendix A

RATES

General rate revenue after rebates and bad debts is estimated at \$1,823,565, for 2012-13 which incorporates an increase in the fixed charge of \$60 and then applicable increases across the differential rates. This is an increase of \$384,568 compared with the estimated result for 2011-12.

A component of the Annual Business Plan includes a discussion and analysis of rates to be levied in 2012-13 together with summary information about the Council's rating structure.

Other rate revenue of \$333,751 is estimated for 2012-13. This represents \$32,358 for service charges to residents who are connected to the Community Wastewater Management Systems that the Council maintains and \$301,393 for service charges for Waste Management in the District.

The balance of the Rate Revenue category of \$60,917 is the NRM levy for which we collect and pass on directly to the State Government.

STATUTORY CHARGES

Statutory charges are fees for regulatory services. These fees are associated with the granting of a permit/license or the regulation of an activity and include Development Act fees and dog registration fees.

USER CHARGES

User charges relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. They include charges for the hire of Council equipment and private works; the lease of council houses and properties; income from the Venus Bay and Port Kenny Water Supplies; and camping permit fees.

User charges and commercial revenue in 2012-13 are projected to increase by \$26,000 compared with the actual income received in 2011-12. This is partly due to the implementation of a fixed fee for service charge for the Port Kenny Water Supply.

GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

This item covers grants and subsidies from all sources including amounts specifically received for new/upgraded assets. The following table summarises the main grants involved:-

Grant Funding Types	2012-13
	Budget
	\$'000
LG Grants Commission – General Purpose Grant	693
LG Grants Commission – Identified Local Road Grant	460
Roads to Recovery	297
Other	262
Total Grants and Subsidies	1,712

Overall, Local Government Grants Commission grants (representing funding provided by the Australian Government) are estimated to be \$1,153,000 in 2012-13. This represents 27.6% of the Council's estimated total operating revenue in 2012-13.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Interest earnings on the investment of funds not immediately required is estimated at \$70,000 in 2012-13.

REIMBURSEMENTS

Reimbursements are amounts received as payment for work done by the Council acting as an agent for others. Revenue of \$31,000 is estimated in 2012-13.

OTHER REVENUES

Other Revenues is revenue not separately classified above. Of the estimated revenue of \$4.1 million in 2012-13, \$35,000 is attributable to Other Revenues which varies from year to year and includes small amounts of revenue from many sources. Other Revenues include search fees, insurance rebate, sundry fees and permits as well as other miscellaneous income.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Expense Types	2012-13
	Budget
	\$'000
Employee Costs	941
Materials, Contractual Services and Other Expenses	2,321
Finance Costs	6
Depreciation	1,142
Total Operating Expenses	4,409

Source: Appendix A

EMPLOYEE COSTS

Employee costs include all labour related expenses such as salaries and wages and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements and employer superannuation. There has been a budget increase for Employee costs with the following contributing factors: additional budget allocations have been incorporated into training and OHS&W; an increase in our WorkCover premium of approximately \$26,000; support for the Elliston Visitor Information Centre for the amount \$30,000.

In addition, Council has included all package costs such as vehicle and rental expenses in the calculation of employee costs.

MATERIALS, CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES

Materials include payments for physical goods consisting of consumables, water and energy. Contractual Services involve payments for the external provision of services. This may include indirectly provided labour and materials or sub-contractors which

are part of a contract. Council engages contractors for the provision of services that include IT, accounting and auditing, debt collection, maintenance of assets, infrastructure and parks and gardens, fire prevention, health services, rubbish collection and waste management. Specific works that are not part of the annual functions yet are due under various sections of Legislation that are to be undertaken this financial year are: Implementation of a records management system, Section 30 Review (Plan Amendments Reports), Town Plan Review and an Electoral Review.

Other expenses relate to expenses not separately classified.

FINANCE COSTS

Finance costs cover the costs of fees and charges on bank accounts. Council does not have any borrowings nor has it budgeted for borrowings in the 2012-13 financial year.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is an accounting measure which records the consumption of the Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

OPERATING RESULT

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	Actual	Actual	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Revenue	3,706	3,749	4,176
less: Operating Expenses	3,016	3,388	4,409
Equals: Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	689	361	(232)

Source: Appendix A

As shown in the above table, the Council has budgeted for an operating deficit of \$232 thousand in 2012-13. This is outside of the parameters set for financial sustainability. A key financial target of the Council is to achieve an operating surplus each year so as to ensure ongoing financial sustainability and therefore avoid future potential cuts to services and/or significant increases in rates.

The 2012-13 Budget deficit is partly as a result of an additional early installment / payment for Grant Funding, received on the 28 June 2012, which materially increased Council's operating results in the 2011-12 year and adversely affected the operating results for the current year.

ANALYSIS OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Refer to Appendix E for a detailed list of all Capital Expenditure Projects by Organisational Unit or Service Profile planned for 2012-13 as well as the Annual Business Plan for additional information on each project.

NET OUTLAYS ON EXISTING ASSETS

The following table summarises capital outlays on existing assets:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Net Outlays on Existing Assets	Actual	Actual	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets	1,025	740	607
less: Depreciation	(982)	(1,027)	(1,142)
less: Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	(193)	(34)	(62)
Equals: Net Outlays on Existing Assets	(150)	(321)	(597)

Source: Appendix D

The Asset Sustainability Ratio in 2012-13 is expected to be 48% and has been calculated by comparing the capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing assets with depreciation expenses. Council is aiming to maintain assets at a sustainable rate and will look at increasing expenditure on existing assets.

Over a 10 year period this ratio should average out to 100% in a Council that is properly maintaining its existing assets.

NET OUTLAYS ON NEW AND UPGRADED ASSETS

The following table summarises capital outlays on new/upgraded assets:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets	Actual	Actual	Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Expenditure on New/Upgraded Assets	1,051	150	876
less: Amounts received specifically for New/Upgraded Assets	(516)	(110)	0
less: Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	(25)	0	0
Equals: Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets	510	40	876

Source: Appendix D

ANALYSIS OF BUDGETED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The table below summarises the estimated balance sheet movements between 30th June 2012 and 30 June 2013 and discusses the level of the Council's net financial liabilities (being the key measure of the Council's financial position).

	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
Current assets	2,842	3,395	2,873
Non-current Assets	34,226	34,042	34,285
Total Assets	37,069	37,437	37,157
Current Liabilities	620	511	522
Non-current Liabilities	3	22	7
Total Liabilities	623	533	528
Equity	36,446	36,904	36,629

Source: Appendix B

CURRENT ASSETS

The decrease in current assets in 2012-13 is due to the continued funding of capital expenditure works in progress from 2010-11 and 2011-12 and some capital expenditure planned for 2012-13. Outstanding rates and other debtor balances are not expected to change significantly and are at acceptable levels.

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

The increase in non-current assets in 2012-13 reflects the combined effect of all capital expenditure, the depreciation of existing assets, the book value of assets sold and the ongoing revaluation of infrastructure assets on a 'fair value' basis.

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities are not expected to change substantially in the coming year. Emphasis on the prompt payment of accounts is in efforts to reduce the trade payables on a monthly basis.

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Non-current liabilities in 2012-13 (i.e. obligations that the Council must pay beyond 30th June 2013) are not expected to change substantially in the coming year.

EQUITY

The net increase in equity in 2012-13 is as a result of the budgeted net deficit reported in the Budgeted Income Statement (see Appendix A) as well as the estimated decreases in the cash position and reserves.

GENERAL AND OTHER RATES

This section summarises the Council's rating arrangements and describes the rate increases in 2012-13.

BACKGROUND

Excluding the NRM levy collected on behalf of the Natural Resource Management Board, general and other rates are expected to account for 53% of the Council's operating revenue in 2012-13.

The Council's rating structure and policies are set out in the 2012-13 Annual Business Plan. The rating structure is comprised of two key elements. These are:

- Property values, which generally reflect capacity to pay; and
- User pays component to reflect usage of some services provided by Council.

Striking a proper balance between these elements provides equity in the distribution of the rate burden across ratepayers.

RATE INCREASES IN 2012-13

The Department of the Valuer General has provided capital values for all rateable properties totaling \$357.7million. This represents an average increase of 4.7% over the values adopted in 2011-12.

2011 - 12	2012 - 13
\$340,916,160	\$357,699,800

RATES OTHER

Other rate revenue of \$334 thousand is estimated for 2012-13. This represents service charges to residents who are connected, eligible to be connected and vacant blocks serviced by the various Community Wastewater Management Systems that the Council maintains.

FIXED CHARGE

The fixed charge has increased from \$190 to \$250 for the 2012-13 financial year.

Natural Resources Management (NRM) Levy

The NRM Board has indicated that the contribution payable by the Council for the 2012-13 year is \$60,917, which is an increase of \$4,097 on the 2011-12 levy. This levy is collected by Council on behalf of the NRM Board by way of a separate rate in the dollar declared on all rateable land within the Council area.

RATING STRUCTURE

The following table summarises the general rates proposed to be adopted for the 2012-13 financial year.

Rate type		2011-12	2012-13
Residential	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.004003
Vacant Land	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.004003
Commercial	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.005003
Industrial	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.004003
Primary Production	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.005003
Other	Cents in \$ of CV	.003864	.010000
Fixed Charge	\$ per property	190.00	250.00

APPENDIX A - BUDGETED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
REVENUE			
Rates	1,767,661	1,817,967	2,218,233
Statutory Charges	23,981	22,222	24,860
User Charges and Commercial Revenue	61,904	59,343	84,534
Grants and Subsidies and Contributions	1,541,727	1,656,450	1,712,364
Investment Income	105,683	102,397	70,518
Reimbursements	120,092	51,225	31,375
Other Revenues	85,218	39,722	34,819
Total Operating Revenue	3,706,266	3,749,325	4,176,703
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	523,192	579,021	940,536
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses	1,511,187	1,776,735	2,320,591
Finance Costs	874	4,933	6,082
Depreciation	981,691	1,027,494	1,142,000
Total Operating Expenses	3,016,944	3,388,183	4,409,209
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	689,322	361,143	(232,506)
Net gain/(loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	(90,714)	(12,899)	0
Capital Income	408,927	109,874	0
Physical resources received free of charge	25,716	0	0
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	1,033,251	458,118	(232,506)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Changes in revaluation surplus – infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5,072,619	0	0
Total Other Comprehensive Income	5,072,619	0	0
	6,105,960	458,118	(232,506)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			

APPENDIX B - BUDGETED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2,635,607	3,088,799	2,598,840
Trade and other receivables	167,761	266,675	233,881
Inventories	38,836	39,405	40,046
Total Current Assets	2,842,204	3,394,879	2,872,767
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	34,226,495	33,987,278	34,284,710
Other	0	54,733	0
Total Non-current Assets	34,226,495	34,042,011	34,284,710
Total Assets	37,068,699	37,436,890	37,157,477
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	525,451	477,397	419,935
Borrowings	0	0	0
Provisions	94,259	33,669	101,823
Other	0	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	619,710	511,066	521,758
Non-current Liabilities			
Borrowings	0	0	0
Provisions	3,142	21,860	6,595
Total Non-current Liabilities	3,142	21,860	6,595
Total Liabilities	622,852	532,926	528,353
	36,445,847	36,903,964	36,629,124
NET ASSETS			
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	6,865,280	7,288,245	7,031,882
Asset Revaluation Reserve	28,808,719	28,808,719	28,825,394
Other Reserves	771,848	807,000	771,848
TOTAL EQUITY	36,445,847	36,903,964	36,629,124

APPENDIX C - BUDGETED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Receipts from Operating Activities	3,975,720	4,132,692	4,176,703
Payments			
Payments from Operating Activities	(2,186,967)	(2,933,464)	(3,239,026)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	1,788,753	1,199,228	931,595
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	516,074	109,874	0
Sale of replaced and surplus assets	217,880	34,103	62,400
Payments			
Loans made to Community Groups			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets	(1,025,116)	(740,379)	(607,596)
Expenditure on development assets			
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets	(1,050,975)	(149,633)	(876,358)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	(1,342,137)	(746,035)	(1,421,554)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings			
Payments			
Repayment of Retirement Village deposits			
Repayment of Borrowings	(33,739)	0	0
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	(33,739)	0	0
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held	412,877	453,192	(489,959)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,222,730	2,635,607	3,088,799
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	2,635,607	3,088,799	2,598,840

APPENDIX D - UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

	2010-11 Actual \$'000	2011-12 Actual \$'000	2012-13 Budget \$'000
Operating Revenue	3,706,266	3,749,325	4,176,703
<i>less: Operating Expenses</i>	(3,016,854)	(3,388,183)	(4,409,209)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) – (a)	689,412	361,143	(232,506)
Net Outlays on Existing Assets			
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	1,025,116	740,379	607,596
<i>less: Depreciation</i>	(981,691)	(1,027,494)	(1,142,000)
<i>less: Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets</i>	(193,335)	(34,103)	(62,400)
(b)	(149,910)	(321,218)	(596,804)
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets			
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	1,050,975	149,633	876,358
<i>less: Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets</i>	(516,074)	(109,874)	0
<i>less: Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets</i>	(24,545)	0	0
(c)	510,356	39,759	876,358
Equals: Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year (a) – (b) – (c)	328,966	642,601	(512,060)

APPENDIX E – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Projects	Funding Source	Budget 2012-13
		\$
<i>Buildings and Construction</i>	<i>DCE Capital</i>	
Elliston Hall Toilet Upgrade		10,000
Painting Exterior of Admin Office		8,000
Window Replacement of Admin Office		9,000
Cemetery Niche Wall - Bramfield		10,000
Roofing repairs to Port Kenny toilet		2,000
Lock Community Park		5,000
Total Buildings and Construction		44,000
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	<i>DCE Capital</i>	
Replacement 4WD Twin Cab		38,000
Ride on Mower		5,000
Spin Cut Mower		1,000
Total Plant and Equipment		44,000
<i>Roads and Footpaths</i>	<i>DCE Capital</i>	
Unsealed Roads Construction – re-sheeting		455,000
Sealed Road re-sheeting		230,000
Paving – Elliston Streets		60,000
Total Roads and Footpaths		745,000
<i>Foreshore Development Project</i>	<i>Grant Funding</i>	
Walking Trails / Foreshore Development		254,000
Total Foreshore Development		254,000
<i>Roads to Recovery</i>	<i>Grant Funding</i>	
Kyancutta Road 10km re-sheeting		297,308
Total Roads to Recovery		297,308
<i>Office Equipment / Furniture</i>	<i>DCE Capital</i>	
Computer replacements		4,000
Total Office Equipment / Furniture		4,000
Total Capital Expenditure		1,388,308

GLOSSARY

Asset Sustainability Ratio

Asset Sustainability Ratio indicates whether the Council is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the same rate as its overall stock of assets is wearing out. The ratio is calculated by measuring capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of assets relative to the level of depreciation. Where a Council has a soundly based Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan, a more meaningful asset sustainability ratio is calculated by measuring the actual level of capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of assets (or proposed in the Annual Budget) with the optimal level identified in the Plan.

Financial Assets

Financial Assets include cash, investments, loans to community groups, receivables and prepayments, but excludes equity held in Council businesses. Also, inventories and land held for resale are not regarded as financial assets.

Financial Sustainability

Financial Sustainability is where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned and disruptive increases in rates or cuts to services.

Net Financial Liabilities

Net Financial Liabilities equals total liabilities less financial assets, where financial assets for this purpose includes cash, investments, loans to community groups, receivables and prepayments, but excludes equity held in Council businesses, inventories and land held for resale.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio expresses Net Financial Liabilities as a percentage of total operating revenue. The ratio allows interested parties to readily equate the outstanding level of the Council's accumulated financial obligations against the level of one-year's operating revenue. Where the ratio is falling over time, it generally indicates that the Council's capacity to meet its financial obligations is strengthening.

Net Lending/ (Borrowing)

Net Lending/ (Borrowing) equals Operating Surplus / (Deficit), less net outlays on non-financial assets. The Net Lending / (Borrowing) result is a measure of the

Council's overall (i.e. Operating and Capital) budget on an accrual basis. Achieving a zero result on the Net Lending / (Borrowing) measure in any one year essentially means that the Council has met all of its expenditure (both operating and capital) from the current year's revenues.

Non-financial or Physical Assets

Non-financial or Physical Asset means infrastructure, land, buildings, plant, equipment, furniture and fittings, library books and inventories.

Operating Deficit

Operating Deficit is where operating revenues less operating expenses is negative and operating income is therefore not sufficient to cover all operating expenses.

Operating Expenses

Operating Expenses are operating expenses including depreciation but excluding losses on disposal or revaluation of non-financial assets.

Operating Revenues

Operating Revenues are operating revenues shown in the Income Statement but exclude profit on disposal of non-financial assets and amounts received specifically for new/upgraded assets, e.g. from a developer. For ratios calculated where the denominator specified is total operating revenue or rate revenue, Natural Resource Management (NRM) levy revenue is excluded.

Operating Surplus

Operating Surplus is where operating revenues less operating expenses is positive and operating revenue is therefore sufficient to cover all operating expenses.

Operating Surplus Ratio

Operating Surplus Ratio expresses the operating surplus (deficit) as a percentage of general and other rates.



District Council of Elliston

Annual Business Plan

2012-13

Introduction

As required by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council must have an Annual Business Plan and Budget for each financial year. A Budget must be considered in conjunction with the Council's Annual Business Plan (and be consistent with that Plan, as adopted) and must be adopted before 31 August in each financial year.

The Council's Annual Business Plan must:

- include a summary of the Council's long-term objectives (as set out in its Strategic Management Plans);
- include an outline of;
- the Council's objectives for the financial year;
- the activities that the Council intends to undertake to achieve those objectives; and
- the measures (financial and non-financial) which the Council intends to use to assess the performance of the Council against its objectives over the financial year;
- assess the financial requirements of the Council for the financial year and taking those requirements into account, set out a summary of its proposed operating expenditure, capital expenditure and sources of revenue;
- set out the rates structure and policies for the financial year;
- assess the impact of the rates structure and policies on the community based on modelling that has been undertaken or obtained by the Council; and
- take into account the Council's long-term financial plan and relevant issues relating to the management and development of infrastructure and major assets by the Council.

Before the Council adopts the final Annual Business Plan it must prepare a draft Annual Business Plan and undertake a public consultation process that, as a minimum, meets the requirements of Section 123 (4) of the Local Government Act 1999. During the public consultation period, copies of the Council's draft Annual Business Plan and any other associated documents must be made available for inspection and purchase by the public at the principal office of the Council.

Once adopted by the Council, copies of the final Annual Business Plan and Budget for the financial year, must be available for inspection or purchase at the principal office of the Council. A summary of the Annual Business Plan must be included with the first rates notice which is sent to ratepayers and available at the Council offices.

This document presents the Annual Business Plan for the District Council of Elliston for the 2012-13 financial year. Once the public consultation program is completed, and the submissions on the draft Annual Business Plan considered, it will, together with the Annual Budget for the 2012-13 financial year, be adopted.

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THE YEAR IN FOCUS – CHAIRPERSON PATRICK CLARK

Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget has been developed in consultation with staff, Elected Members, community members and stakeholders. It provides a plan to undertake various programs, projects, operations and capital works within budget and resource constraints.

The last 12 months has seen significant changes within Council's workforce and the new focus and drive of the staff working in conjunction with the Elected body will benefit the community and the district.

The Plan for 2012-13 will be driven by the new Strategic Plan – 'Moving toward 2017' a plan for the next 5 years. Council's target of a break even budget will be difficult to reach because of limited income available as is the case with many rural councils in South Australia. To this end 2012-13 will see Council put more emphasis on attracting grants for identified projects and capital works.

It is integral for the Council and community to work together to achieve outcomes at a local level. Council will continue to work together with other local Councils on the Eyre Peninsula to ensure the regions voice can be heard at both a State and Federal level. This multi leveled approach will ensure the best outcomes for the Elliston district.

Council will focus on improved service levels in 2012-13 with minimal capital works projects. Work will continue to ensure that major works will be 'shovel-ready' in order that we can apply for significant grant funds to complete these works. Two major projects identified to be funded over the next couple of years are the Kyancutta Road and the Elliston Foreshore upgrade.

The Elliston Foreshore upgrade will be developed in conjunction with the community and the SA Tourism Commission. The Cliffs of Elliston and the foreshore area are a key tourist attraction as well as an enjoyable recreation spot for locals. Preliminary figures for the upgrade estimate \$1.3million. Given the scope of the work it is anticipated that the project will take place over 4 stages and will require significant grant funding to be completed.

Kyancutta Road is a key tourist and freight road in the area, also used by local families for sporting and recreational fixtures with neighbouring towns and has long been identified as a road that needs to be sealed. This road is also used as key link to Adelaide. The road crosses the boundary into Wuddina Council and would be best undertaken as a joint project with this Council. Elliston Council's section of the road work would be in the vicinity of \$4million dollars and would not be undertaken without

significant grant funds and a joint agreement with the Wuddina Council to undertake the work on the road within that Council area.

Council is keen to focus on improved service standards, maintaining existing infrastructure and working towards the completion of a couple of major projects that will benefit the District as a whole. We look forward to working together with the community to achieve improvements across the Council area in 2012-13.

Patrick Clark

Chairperson

THE AREA IN FOCUS

The District Council of Elliston covers an area of 669,300 hectares and is located on the western seaboard of South Australia on the Eyre Peninsula.

Within the District Council area, the two largest townships are the communities of Elliston and Lock with the six smaller towns being Port Kenny, Venus Bay, Bramfield, Sheringa, Tooligie and Murdinga.

Council's office is located in Elliston. Elliston is a delightful seaside town of about 300 people and is located 169 km northwest of Port Lincoln and 641 km west of Adelaide on the Flinders Highways.

Set between rolling and pleasant sheep and wheat country and within some of the most interesting and dramatic coastline on the Eyre Peninsula, it is a pleasant place for fishing, swimming, surfing and walking along the rugged sandstone cliffs. The nearby boat ramp at Anxious Bay delivers crayfish and a large percentage of the abalone exported from the Eyre Peninsula.

Within close proximity to the Elliston town centre is a sealed all weather registered aerodrome. The aerodrome is mainly used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. An unsealed aircraft landing area is located near Lock; both sites are open to private craft.

The economy of the District is based upon primary production and the fishing and tourism industries. Primary production consists of mainly cereal grain (wheat, barley and oats) and wool. The extensive coastline is a productive fishing ground, which is consequently experiencing increased patronage in recreational fishing, tourism and aquaculture.

Both tourism and development potential are presently in their early development stages and significant potential for growth in both areas, is believed to exist within the entire district.

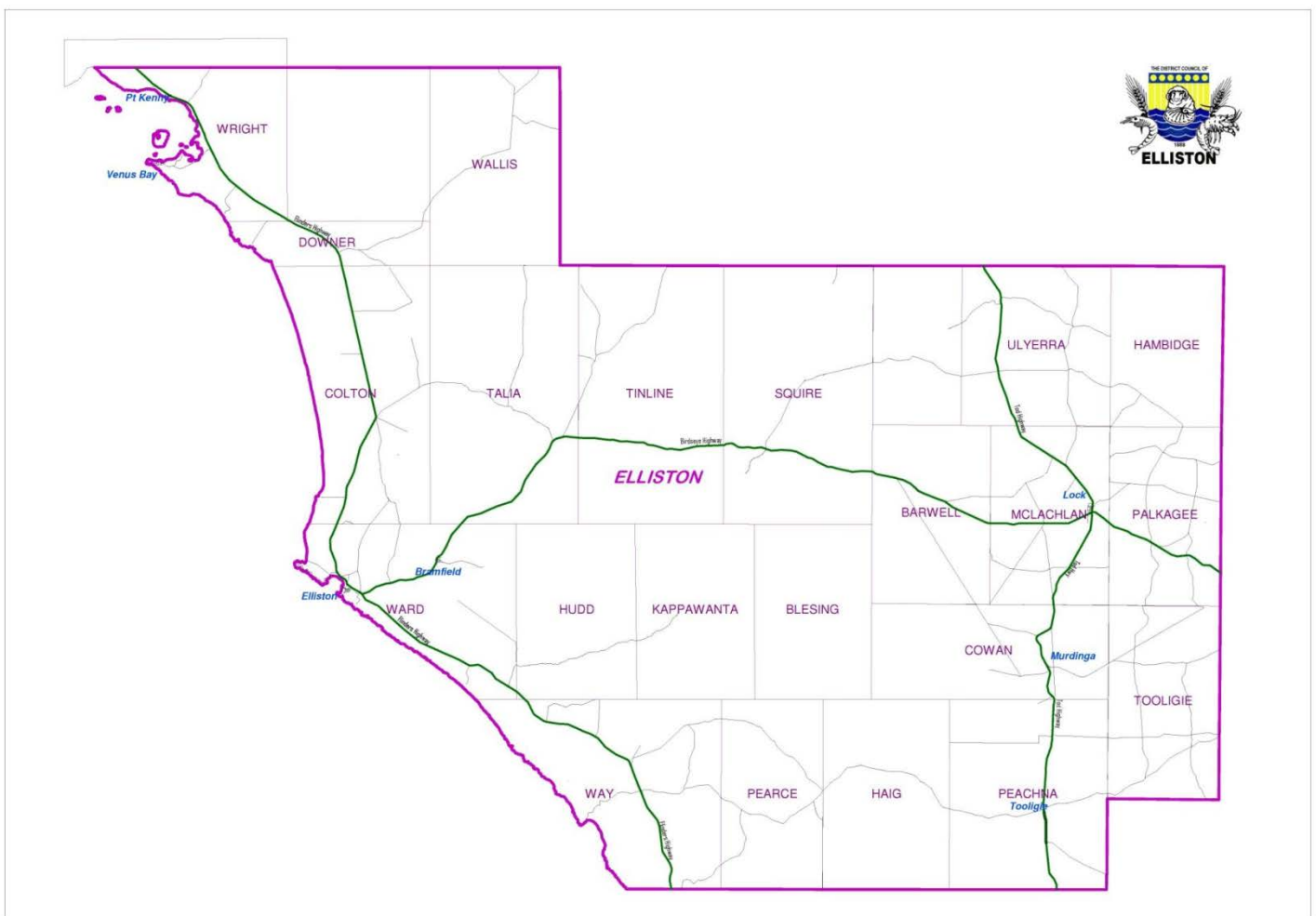
THE COUNCIL IN FOCUS

The Council district is represented by 8 Elected Members. A chair person is selected from among the members for a period of 2 years after the election. The last election was held in November 2010 and the next election will take place in November 2014, placing us approximately half way through the election cycle. Each Elected Member represents approximately 100 electors.

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public and commence at 9:30am, with a ten minute question time at the start of each meeting.

The District Council of Elliston has:

- 1262 rateable properties,
- 960 principal ratepayers,
- An area of 6,693 square kilometers, and
- Approximately 1,146 kilometres of unsealed roads to maintain



COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN – MOVING TOWARD 2017

The District Council of Elliston acknowledges that a balanced, robust and well developed set of objectives will serve the Council and community well.

Focusing on the following four objectives, Council has developed a framework for its future strategic management plans.

- Our Economy and Infrastructure
- Our Environment
- Our Community Services
- Our Leadership and Governance

Annually through its Budget and Annual Business Plan Council aligns budgets and programs against its key directions and strategies while periodically also reviewing its strategic plan. In 2012 Council undertook a full review of its Strategic Plan and has adopted a new strategic document "Moving Toward 2017". The Strategic Plan is reinforced by a Long Term Financial Plan.

DEFINING TARGETS AND MEASURING PROGRESS

As part of its strategic management plans Council prepares a budget and works program and an annual business plan to deliver the specific outcomes that will make up and achieve its strategic management objectives.

The annual process of defining targets and measuring progress is an integral part of the Council's Management Plan. By setting specific targets and measuring progress against the wider strategic objectives, achievement will be measured. These forms of measurement are a clear indication of progress, continuous improvement, program delivery and the performance of the Council as a whole.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND FUNCTIONS

Founded on the vision we see for the District of Elliston the strategic plan highlights our commitment, desire and capacity to deliver major projects, capital works and services to maintain and enhance the Council area over the next 5 years.

The Strategic Plan reflects Council's commitment to the community with its four interrelated objectives and goals.

The goals underpinning these objectives are supported by Council's functional service areas, Executive Services, Corporate and Community Services, Infrastructure and Environmental Services. The organisation is structured to deliver the key strategies through these functional service areas.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

A viable, cohesive and dynamic community, which supports expanding economic opportunities in a sustainable manner without compromising the natural assets or quality of lifestyle of the community.

OUR MISSION

As a legislated business, the District Council of Elliston aims to provide leadership, representation, advocacy and prudent management for its communities and visitors, and to work with them to identify asset needs and improve services.

OUR CORE VALUES

The Elected Members and staff of the District Council of Elliston are guided by the following day-to-day principles to create a positive and dynamic organisational culture:

- Good governance
- Ethical behaviour
- Community focus
- Integrity
- Team Focus
- Openness and Accountability
- Responsibility
- Cohesiveness
- Positive Leadership

Objectives, Goals and Functions

The following table provides an overview of the Objectives, Goals and Functions for strategy and service delivery.

Goal:

Objective:

Functions:

Our Economy and Infrastructure

To actively encourage, support and promote opportunities to increase the prosperity and sustainable growth of the community and effectively and efficiently manage and improve our community infrastructure.

We will pursue initiatives to increase tourist visitation to our District to enhance the local economy and spread the word about our beautiful region.

We will develop strategies to position our District to be conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector

We will collaborate to develop an integrated transport and road system that provides access for all users.

We will pursue and collaborate to secure water and power resources for the future including access to renewable energy and lobby governments to improve access to technology

We will develop and improve our community infrastructure, including sewage and stormwater systems in a staged manner over the period of this Strategic Plan and contingent on available resources.

We will maintain all buildings on the Council register and preserve heritage buildings, items and places of interest in a staged manner over the period of this Strategic Plan and contingent on available resources.

Tourism information and support

Event support

Economic Development

Business support

Roads (local roads – that is, not national highways or State arterial roads)

Footpaths

Walking and cycling tracks

Stormwater drainage

Local area water catchment plans

Community wastewater management system (CWMS)

Heritage support

Cemeteries

RV Friendly parks

Camping areas

Our Environment

To promote the enjoyment of our natural resources in a prudent and environmentally sustainable manner and ensure that our built environment effectively provides for the long term needs of our communities.

We will develop sustainable plans for the future growth in all our towns and communities

We will develop a long term waste management strategy which will address recycling, reduced waste to landfill and prudent management of our landfill.

We will collaborate to develop environmentally sustainable natural resources.

Planning and development services, including building assessment

Rubbish collection and disposal

Recycling

Environmental health services

Food safety inspections

Dog and cat management

Fire prevention

Coastcare and sand dune projects

Our Community Services

To deliver a high standard of essential community services and show leadership in developing positive community spirit.

We will continue to support health, family support and aged care services and facilities.

We will support programs that assist in youth development and leadership and provide opportunities for young people to develop life skills, increase knowledge and build their capacity within the community and provide appropriate ongoing support to schools and childcare centres.

We will deliver and maintain high standard and quality of services.

We will maintain relationships with community protection stakeholders.

Support of Aged Care

Support of Youth Advisory Committees

Community development programs

Parks and gardens

Reserves and picnic areas

Skate parks

Libraries and books and free internet

Our Leadership and Governance

To provide progressive leadership and good governance which encourages confidence of the community in the Council.

We will enhance internal processes to ensure high standards of governance.

We will ensure we have dedicated, competent staff and Elected Members.

We will develop and implement a clear and effective plan for the long term operation of Council

We will ensure that we communicate and engage effectively with our community.

We will provide clear leadership and advocate effectively and strategically on behalf of our community.

Administrative requirements,

Preparing strategic plans for the area,

Maintaining an office,

Employing a Chief Executive Officer

Supporting the Elected members

Information services

Community leadership and advocacy

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Annual Business Plan sets out the Council's services, programs and projects for 2012-13. It sets the Council's specific objectives for the year in the context of its forecast long term financial position to ensure that a sound financial position is maintained.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Given the asset-intensive sphere of Local Government, it is imperative that Councils have appropriate plans in place to effectively manage the considerable fixed asset stock under their control.

Council has a comprehensive suite of Asset Management Plans guiding the programmed maintenance and replacement of its significant fixed asset stock.

As custodian of approximately \$34M of fixed assets, ranging from the extensive road network infrastructure (including road pavement, kerb and footpaths, stormwater drainage) to sewerage treatment facilities, sporting ground facilities and community buildings such as libraries and town halls, there is an important need for such key plans.

With a robust improvement plan incorporated within the Asset Management Plan, the plan effectively acts as a 'roadmap' towards the effective management of Council's fixed asset stock, including:

- Programmed maintenance schedules;
- Programmed asset replacement and renewal;
- Depreciation rates required to ensure that the consumption of such fixed assets is amortised over their effective useful lives.

The plan will subsequently foreshadow the funding required for such key activities, with such expenditure requirements incorporated in annual updates to Council's Long Term Financial Plan and the Annual Budget.

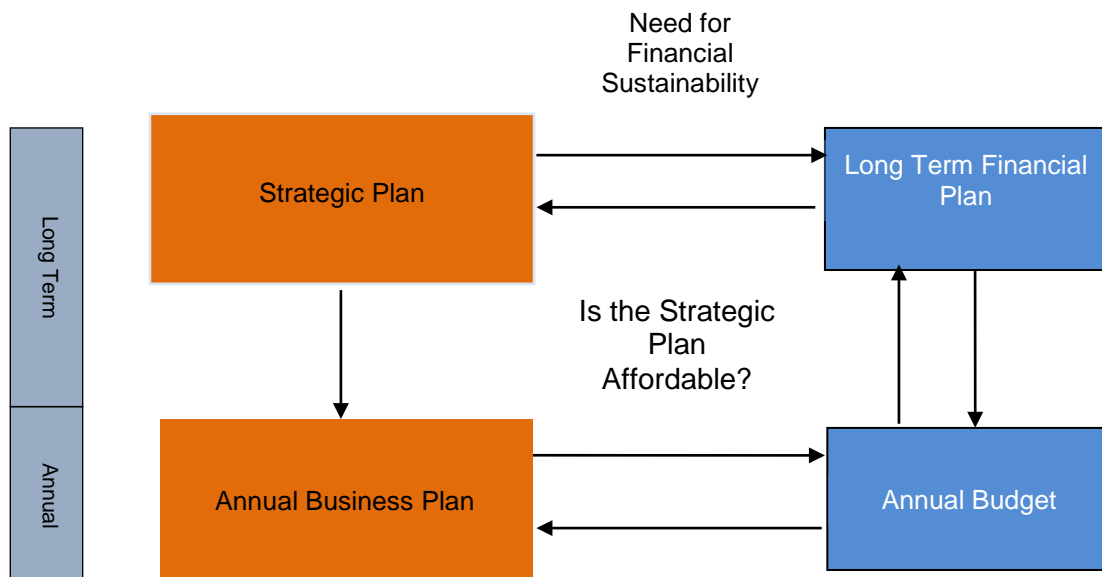
LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The preparation of the 2012-13 budget has been formulated on the financial parameters and principles outlined in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

The Long Term Financial Plan effectively acts as a 'roadmap' to charter Council's financial operations in the longer term, and subsequently gives indicative future funding needs and requirements within an ever-changing economic environment.

The Long Term Financial Plan is not included within this document and will be presented separately. This plan will be reviewed as soon as practical after the adoption of the 2012-13 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Council will undertake a comprehensive review of its Long Term Financial Plan following the adoption of the 2012-13 Annual Business Plan and Budget using the 2012-13 budget as the base year for the Plan.



SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES AND PRIORITIES – 2012-13

A number of key assumptions and significant factors have influenced the preparation of the Council's annual business plan/budget. These include:

- Local Government Cost Index increases on existing goods and services of 3.6% for the year (current December quarter 2011);
- Enterprise Bargaining Agreements which provide for wages and salary increases of not more than 3.5%;
- Requirements to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards, including roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage and community wastewater management systems;
- Service delivery needs for a decreasing population, whilst recognizing that this trend could reverse with the success of mining exploration in neighboring areas;
- Consideration of the impact of Carbon Tax on Council's operating costs
- Energy costs are expected to increase beyond the rate of CPI and has been increased at a rate of 20%;
- State/Commonwealth grant funding not keeping pace with the increase in associated service delivery costs.

The Council's key priorities for 2012-13 are:

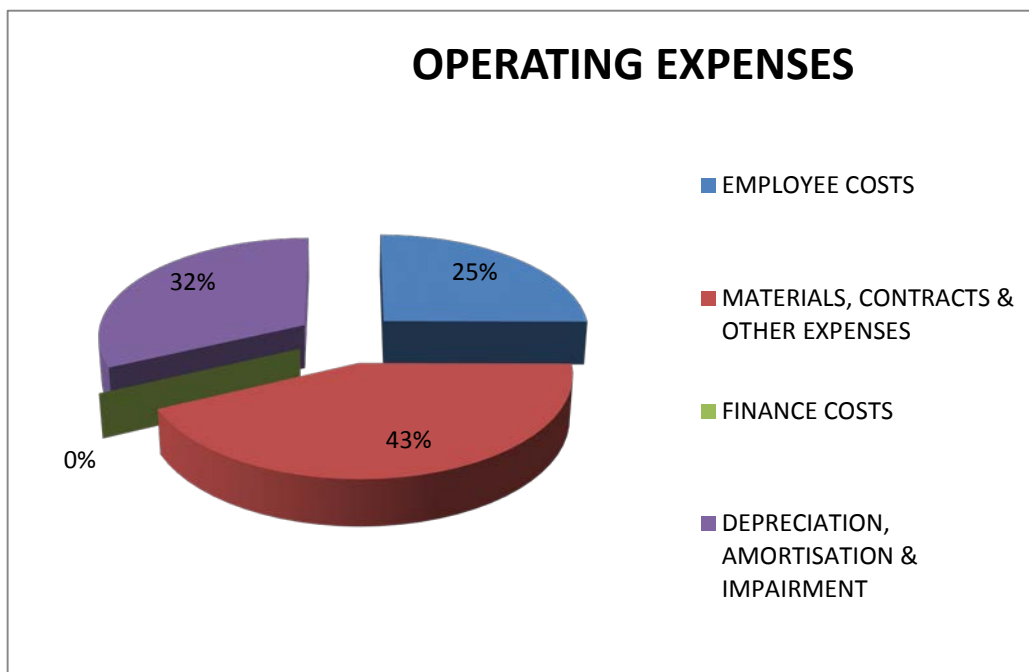
- Review of existing recurrent service levels provided to be undertaken in consultation with our community;
- The on-going implementation of improvement plans incorporated within Council's comprehensive Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans, Long Term Financial Plans and Strategic Plan;
- Facilitating the future financial sustainability of Council by ensuring the financial operations remain within policy targets adopted for such purpose;
- Continuation of Council's annual works program with a commitment to fund roads, footpaths, car parking and foreshore developments;
- Continue with training of the elected body to ensure they are fully appraised of legislative responsibilities to enable them to fulfill their roles;

- Provision of sufficiently qualified experienced and trained staff to meet service delivery demands.

CONTINUING SERVICES/OPERATING EXPENDITURE

Councils have a number of basic responsibilities under the Local Government Act and other relevant legislation. These include:

- Regulatory activities e.g. maintaining the voters roll and supporting the elected Council;
- Setting rates, preparing an annual budget and determining longer-term strategic management plans for the area;
- Management of basic infrastructure including roads, footpaths, parks, public open space, street lighting and storm-water drainage;
- Community wastewater management system (CWMS);
- Street cleaning and rubbish collection;
- Development planning and control, including building safety assessment;
- Environmental health services.



In response to community needs the Council also provides further services and programs including:

- Library;
- Support of the Community Information Centre and Community Buildings;
- Economic development;
- Environmental programs;
- Community programs;
- Services for youth and the aged;
- Stormwater reuse projects;
- Support of sports and recreation.

In all services the Council seeks to be responsive to changing needs. Community responses and surveys are undertaken from time to time to check levels of satisfaction and areas for improvement.

The Council also operates a number of facilities on a fee for service basis. These facilities provide important community benefits while also generating revenue for services and projects of benefit to the residents and visitors to the Elliston district.

Services include:

- Camping grounds;
- Private infrastructure works;
 - Driveway crossovers
 - Concrete pads
 - Retaining walls
 - Minor tree removal
 - Landscape works
- Plant hire;
- Water supply;

- Printing, photocopying and scanning.

Following is a detailed explanation of the services provided by the Council to the community. The cash flows generated by the provision of these services will be summarised in the budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2013. The services are broken up into the 5 organisational units of the Council being corporate services, community services, infrastructure services, environmental services and executive services.

CORPORATE SERVICES

GOVERNANCE

There are 2 categories of governance being organisational and elected member. Expenses incurred in this service include executive salaries, elected members expenses and allowance, member training, memberships, travel, conferences, public liability, insurance, administration and officer support to Council.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration services cover the following activities:

- Financial Services – provision of accounting services, record keeping, bill paying, payroll, insurance, financial reporting and management.
- Human Resources – compliance with Occupational Health Safety and Welfare (OHS and W) policies and legislation, recruitment, rehabilitation and performance management.
- Information Technology – operation of the Council's information technology systems, purchase and/or lease of computer hardware.
- Communication – telephone and internet services.
- Rates Administration – administration and collection of rates and associated record keeping.
- Records Management – maintenance of records management system.
- Customer Service – customer support at the Council office plus a range of community administration services.

FINANCING AND INVESTING

Covers cash inflows and outflows associated with the Councils financing and investing activities.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Aged Services

This service covers the following activity:

- Support of community health service
- Aged accommodation strategy

Youth Services

This service covers the following activities:

- Support of the regional Youth Advisory Committee
- Skate park at Elliston

Cultural and Arts

This service covers the following activities:

- Event support
- Civic functions

Library Services

Council will work with DECS to ensure the library service at Lock will continue to meet the needs of the population.

The services provided by libraries include:

- Books and magazines
- Free internet
- Room hire

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

COMMUNITY WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CWMS)

This service covers maintenance and construction of the effluent scheme at Lock. Activities include, repairing and replacing lines as required. Ongoing inspections of system connections are also conducted to ensure all connections have been installed and operating correctly.

Council will investigate a scope of works for the future installation of a CWMS in the township of Elliston. This would only be proceeded with if significant grant funding is made available.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

Collection of waste, kerbside recycling, operation of waste disposal facility, general litter collection and drum musters. The solid waste levy payable to the Environment Protection Agency is also charged to this area.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

This service covers the following activities:

- Road and footpaths construction – annual works program and developer contributed works;
- Street cleaning and lighting;
- Car parking and public conveniences;
- Works depots;
- Cycle and walking paths.
- Road maintenance - fixing pot holes, reinstating trenches across roads, small patches of resealing and repairing and straightening rough edges. Kerbing, water tables and traffic signage are also charged to this activity.
- Ongoing upgrade and replacement of plant and equipment.
- Road maintenance of rural unsealed roads – grading, tree trimming and spraying of weeds;

- Footpath maintenance - laying and rolling of crusher fines along the footpath, general footpath rolling, potholing and minor re-sheeting.
- Street sweeping in each of the towns - commercial areas twice per week, the cleaning of bins and footpath pavement and the picking up of litter by hand.
- The Elliston Aerodrome - inspected on a weekly basis including checking of runway light functionality as well as the windsock. Maintenance also includes slashing of overgrowth and weed spraying

FORESHORE PROTECTION

This service covers the management of coastal environment and provision of facilities to enable sustainable use of coastal areas including the provision of boat ramps. Revegetation will be undertaken where required to ensure protection of the foreshores. Foreshore maintenance will continue along the length of Councils beach front maintaining and repairing the infrastructure as needed. Minor maintenance issues will be attended to such as cleaning up of camp grounds, fixing access points and beach front furniture.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

This service covers the stormwater management and recycling including management and collection of street runoff and the development of capital schemes to enable the reuse of stormwater. A Stormwater Management Plan including the prioritising of works and developing a works program to upgrade the regions stormwater infrastructure will continue through 2012-13.

PRIVATE WORKS

This service covers the infrastructure work performed by Council on behalf of individuals or the government. This work is charged out at commercial rates.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

This service covers dog and cat management, traffic control, fire control, health control and emergency services as required under various pieces of legislation.

PARKS AND GARDENS

This service covers the provision and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities including parks and reserves as well as playgrounds.

Parks and gardens include the town squares, reserves and traffic islands. Maintenance includes the trimming of trees, cutting of lawns, repairs to sprinkler systems, repairs to playgrounds, repairs to seating and benches as well as general maintenance to the numerous structures built within these parks and reserves.

PLANNING

Planning includes the assessment of development applications under the Development Act to ensure compliance with the Councils development plan and the building code. It is a statutory requirement of Local Government to perform this function.

CEMETERIES

Council operates cemeteries in each of the townships for the local and regional community. Expenditure includes the costs involved in locating, digging and backfilling of graves and general maintenance.

General Maintenance involves repairs to fencing and gates, the emptying of bins, gardening, watering and mowing as and where required.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The maintenance and cleaning of public conveniences is undertaken by Council on a regular basis. Council will continue to undertake maintenance and upgrades of these facilities as and when required.

Public conveniences are inspected twice per week with basic plumbing and other repairs and maintenance carried out as required

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Council collect a levy on behalf of the state government and the Natural Resource Management Board. Decisions relating to natural resource management are made by this Board independently from the Council.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development activities include strategic land development divisions, Regional Development Australia membership, encouraging industrial development as well as representing the Elliston regions interests at other levels of government.

TOURISM

Tourism activities include increasing visitation by tourists through the support of visitor's information centres, marketing and promotion, special events, development of tourism assets including the foreshore, RV Friendly areas and campgrounds.

PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR/CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Project priorities and Capital expenditure for the year 2012-13 will be subject to a full review to determine the most cost effective manner to deliver these services. Proposed project priorities to be undertaken during the year ending 30 June 2013:

- Cycling and Walking strategy and associated capital works
- Kyancutta Road joint project
- Upgrade of public conveniences
- Elliston Foreshore Redevelopment
- Coastal protection

Following is a detailed explanation of the proposed project priorities/capital expenditure to be undertaken by Council. The cash flows generated by the provision of these services will be summarised in the budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2013. The projects/capital expenditure are broken up into the 5 organisational units of the Council being corporate services, community services, infrastructure services, environmental services and executive services.

CORPORATE SERVICES:

GOVERNANCE

Community Grants – Council provides funding to various community groups each year through a grants program.

ADMINISTRATION

Council Administration Office upgrade – Council will continue to upgrade the office to ensure occupational health and safety requirements are met. The purpose of the upgrade is to have an office that is fit for purpose.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

SPORT AND RECREATION

Community Sporting Groups contributions – these capital works include consideration of support to various sporting clubs that will enable them to attract state and national sporting events to the area.

ELLISTON FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT –

Bicycle and Walking Tracks – rubble/ hotmix, boardwalk and fencing to walking and bike tracks. The tracks are being upgraded in consultation with local community groups including schools, local businesses and clubs and state bodies such as NRM and DTEI.

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Waste Transfer Station - To develop a waste transfer station to facilitate the removal of garbage from the District of Elliston to a regional landfill facility (Venus Bay). This area will be subject to a full review to determine the most cost effective manner to deliver these services. Detailed costing will be prepared once this review has been conducted.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

Various roads and footpaths - Town streets to be included were established as priorities throughout the region as part of Council's five year priority list. This list has been reviewed to ensure those roads most used and most in need are attended to first where possible. A number of these projects will require full survey and design prior to works commencing.

Council has developed a five year priority list on footpaths within the District of Elliston towns and works will be undertaken in accordance with these priorities.

Kyancutter Road - This road is a key tourist and freight road in the area and crosses the boundary into the Wuddina Council area. The resealing of this road is a priority for Council but will only be undertaken in partnership with the adjoining Council and subject to grant funding. Council will budget this year to have the project 'shovel ready' so that it can complete the grant application at the appropriate time.

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant Replacement – Plant to be replaced in line with Council's plant replacement schedule developed, including an allowance for minor plant.

Motor Vehicle Replacement – Motor vehicles are replaced in line with Council's Motor Vehicle Policy.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

Various Projects – projects will be undertaken in order of priority as detailed in Council Stormwater Management Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Council will continue to upgrade the Public Conveniences within the area through a series of minor works to ensure the facilities continue to meet community needs.

PARKS AND GARDENS

Coastal protection and foreshore recreation areas – Council is committed to continually manage the foreshore within the area recognizing the integral role it plays in our tourism industry as well as the enjoyment of residents. Resources will be made available to ensure the foreshores are protected and sustained for future generations. Grant applications will be submitted to undertake capital works on the foreshore areas.

Playgrounds – ongoing works to improve the areas playgrounds, parks and reserves.

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

RV Friendly – Council will continue to establish areas of the district as tourist destinations for those people using RV's as a means of touring the Eyre Peninsula area.

FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT

To upgrade and redevelop the foreshores within the District of Elliston including Elliston, Port Kenny and Venus Bay to attract tourist to the area.

Council considers the foreshore to be one of the most important assets from the viewpoint of a community asset and tourism generation and recognises that redevelopment of this asset will bring an increased number of tourists and economic growth to the whole region. The full extent of these projects will be staged over a number of years. The public consultation phase and first grant applications for minor works are expected to take place this financial year.

Boat Ramp and Jetties– this will be a major project with the full extent of the project running over more than one financial year. This project will be undertaken dependent on the approval of grant funding being successfully received and consultation undertaken with DTEI and users of the facilities..

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Council recognises the importance of regularly reporting its performance to the local community and embraces the ethos of transparency in governance.

Council has a number of mechanisms already in place to measure and assess the performance of its operations – from the production of statutory reports such as the Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements, to various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used to measure service delivery outcomes.

The Annual Business Plan has been prepared to deliver the following Council objectives:

OBJECTIVE:	KEY STRATEGY	TARGET/OUTCOME
OUR ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
We will pursue initiatives to increase tourist visitation to our District to enhance the local economy and spread the word about our beautiful region.	Develop a Tourism Strategy designed to attract tourists to the coast, with a focus on provision of tourist facilities (e.g. camper and caravan parks), being RV Friendly, improved signage, utilisation of assets (e.g. airstrip), walking trails, wetlands and boardwalks.	Work in conjunction with the Eyre Peninsula Tourism Development Manager to develop a draft Tourism Strategy for the Elliston District.
	Encourage and support local tourism associations, tourist information centre, festivals, events (e.g. surf boat carnival, farmer's markets), attractions and projects (e.g. main street ambience) that add value to the District's positioning and economy.	Monitor tourist numbers through the Visitor's Information Centre providing an annual report on statistics to Council.
	Develop a RV pump out station in the vicinity of the toilets at the Tourist Information Centre.	Increase Council involvement in events. RV pump out station to be constructed in Elliston

OBJECTIVE:	KEY STRATEGY	TARGET/OUTCOME
We will develop strategies to position our District to be conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector	Develop an Economic Development Strategy to promote employment creation and increased economic activity in the District.	Liaise with Regional Development Australia to formulate the basis for an Economic Development Strategy.
	Develop strategic partnerships with prospective mining and resource companies on the development of new mining activities.	Continue to meet and consult with prospective mining and resource companies working in and adjacent to the Elliston district.
	Lobby government in partnership with Wudinna Council to fund the sealing of Kyancutta Road	Scope of works completed 2012 and grant application submitted by end 2013. Work to be undertaken 2012/13 and 2013/14
	Develop an Aged Accommodation Strategy to promote the District as an ideal place to retire.	Meet with stakeholders to contribute to an Aged Accommodation Strategy for Elliston District by mid 2013.
	Build links and lobby RDA, State and Federal Governments to provide additional funding and grants to the Council area (roads, rail, technology, energy, stormwater).	3 grant applications for funding submitted.
	Support the development of local banking facilities.	Investigate options to support of local banking facilities.
	The recruitment of a Grants Officer for the region to identify grants which will boost Council resources on priority projects.	Grants officer secured to assist Council with grant applications
We will collaborate to develop an integrated transport and road system that provides access for all users.	Develop and maintain a long term Infrastructure Asset Management Plan to ensure our assets are well managed	Adopt Infrastructure Asset Management by mid 2013
We will pursue and collaborate to secure water and power resources for the future including access to renewable energy and lobby governments to improve access to technology	Develop a Water Management Strategy.	Develop a draft Water Management Strategy.
	Collaborate to develop a regional approach and explore opportunities and feasibility of wave and wind energy.	Collaborate with regional stakeholders to develop opportunities for wave and wind energy. (ongoing)
	Lobby governments, RDA and NBN on upgrading of access to broadband technology.	Progress access to improved broadband technology (ongoing)

OBJECTIVE:	KEY STRATEGY	TARGET/OUTCOME
We will maintain all buildings on the Council register and preserve heritage buildings, items and places of interest in a staged manner over the period of this Strategic Plan and contingent on available resources.	<p>Maintain all buildings on the Council register and preserve heritage buildings, items and places of interest.</p> <p>Encourage environmentally sound building design and practices which minimise resource and energy use.</p> <p>Develop a Property Strategy to maximise utilisation of Council owned property assets.</p>	<p>Complete heritage register.</p> <p>Implement and advocate for environmentally sound building design and practices which minimise resource and energy use.(ongoing)</p> <p>Develop Council's Property Strategy including identifying surplus property and disposal strategy</p>
OUR ENVIRONMENT		
We will develop sustainable plans for the future growth in all our towns and communities	<p>Undertake Section 30 review under Development Plan.</p> <p>Undertake a formal review of (1) the Elliston Spatial Plan, 2007 – the Plan for Growth and the associated 'General Guide to Land Availability and Development Potential – 2008</p>	<p>Commence Section 30 Review.</p> <p>Commence review of the districts Spatial Plans.</p>
We will develop a long term waste management strategy which will address recycling, reduced waste to landfill and prudent management of our landfill.	Develop Waste Management Strategy in consultation with EPLGA	Formally seek assistance and gain support from the EPLGA to develop a regional Waste Management Strategy
We will collaborate to develop environmentally sustainable natural resources.	<p>Develop priority actions emanating from the NRM Coastal Action Plan in conjunction with NRM.</p> <p>Determine environmental significance of Lake Newland as a unique environmental area in conjunction with NRM</p>	<p>Prioritize actions emanating from the NRM Coastal Action Plan.</p> <p>In Liaison with NRM identify the environmental significance of Lake Newland.</p>

OBJECTIVE:	KEY STRATEGY	TARGET/OUTCOME
OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES		
We will continue to support health, family support and aged care services and facilities.	Facilitate the development of an aged accommodation strategy to promote the District as an ideal place to retire (see Our Economy). Support a community bus facility in conjunction with Mid West Health. Facilitate the development of a strategy to improve childcare facilities. Explore feasibility to establish a Men's Shed for male activities in Elliston	Establish a network of Stakeholders to work on the Aged Accommodation Strategy Continue to support the Community bus service (ongoing) Liaising with key stakeholders to develop childcare strategy. (ongoing) Undertake a feasibility study into establishing Men's Shed
We will support programs that assist in youth development and leadership and provide opportunities for young people to develop life skills, increase knowledge and build their capacity within the community and provide appropriate ongoing support to schools and childcare centres.	Develop a regional approach to youth activities based on current YAC	Continue to work on a Regional approach to youth activities (ongoing)
We will deliver and maintain high standard and quality of services.	Develop a continuous improvement service program.	Draft a continuous improvement service program
We will maintain relationships with community protection stakeholders.	Develop and maintain regular communication protocols with community protection stakeholders (e.g. GP, Hospital, CFS, SES, Ambulance services, Police).	Regular communication with community protection stakeholders occurring and reported. (ongoing)

OBJECTIVE:	KEY STRATEGY	TARGET/OUTCOME
OUR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE		
We will enhance internal processes to ensure high standards of governance.	<p>Provide open, accessible and accountable governance and ensure the community has open access to Council decisions, policies and plans.</p> <p>Meet Council's legislative obligations and increase community awareness through education and enforcement where necessary.</p> <p>Participate in LGA Good Governance Assessment Program (GGAP).</p>	<p>Open, accessible and accountable governance occurring and monitored. (ongoing)</p> <p>Council's legislative obligations achieved. (ongoing)</p> <p>GGAP completed in February 2012 develop a corrective action plan and review progress in February 2013.</p>
We will ensure we have dedicated, competent staff and Elected Members.	<p>Develop annual plan for the professional development of Councillors.</p> <p>Develop annual plan for the professional development of staff.</p>	<p>Implement a training and development policy and strategy for Elected Members</p> <p>Implement a training and development policy and strategy for Staff</p>
We will develop and implement a clear and effective plan for the long term operation of Council	<p>Develop Long Term Financial Management Plan.</p> <p>Develop Long Term Asset Management Plan.</p> <p>Implement new Human Resource Plan (HRP).</p> <p>Develop Long Term Workforce Plan (LTWP).</p> <p>Develop Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>Develop Strategic Plan and linked to Annual Business Plan.</p> <p>Develop an OHS&W Plan.</p>	<p>10 year LTFP adopted</p> <p>10 year LTIAMP adopted</p> <p>Develop new HRP.</p> <p>Develop LTWP</p> <p>Develop Risk Management Plan</p> <p>Update Strategic Plan to from 5 years to 10 years.</p> <p>Develop OHS&W Plan.</p>
We will ensure that we communicate and engage effectively with our community.	Develop Community Engagement Plan with a focus on proactive and innovative ways to inform, engage and involve the community	Develop Community Engagement Plan
We will provide clear leadership and advocate effectively and strategically on behalf of our community.	<p>Ensure all Council decisions are in the strategic interest of our community.</p> <p>Develop regional approaches to advocating for our community.</p>	<p>Undertake a regular review of all Council decisions.</p> <p>Develop a regional approach to advocating for community</p>

FUNDING THE BUSINESS PLAN

OPERATING REVENUE/CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

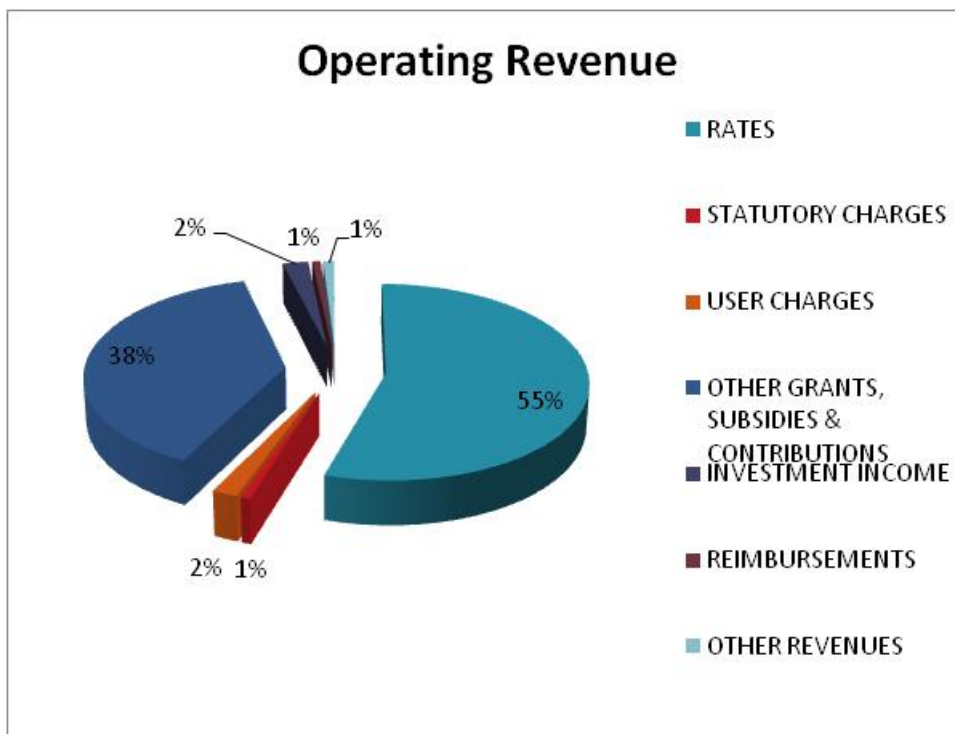
Council's target is a break even budget in 2012-13

The Council's budgeted revenue in 2012-13 includes \$1.918million (54.8%) proposed to be raised from rates and charges.

Other sources of proposed revenue for the Council are

User Charges and Commercial Revenue	\$0.064million
Statutory Charges set by State Government	\$0.024million
Grants	\$1.350million
Other Revenue	\$0.139million

The following graph illustrates the extent of revenue obtained from rates compared with other sources:



As identified, in 2012-13 Council will require the use of debt as well as its regular sources of funds in order to achieve all of the objectives outlined in this plan.

RATING ARRANGEMENTS 2012-13

The Annual Business Plan for 2012-13 aims to strike a balance between the level of services for the community and the need to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Council. Council has limited options to generate the income required to pay for services which it provides to the community. The primary source of income for Council is a property based tax – rates.

In setting its rates for the financial year the Council needs to give primary consideration to strategic directions, budget considerations, the current economic climate and the likely impacts on the community.

Council has received information as to the movements in residential valuations for the 2012-13 financial year.

ELLISTON

Capital Value: Residential Capital Values received a 5% increase the from previous year excluding variations to some individual properties. Commercial and Industrial also had a 5% increase and vacant land of course follows the site values as outlined below.

Site Value: Although Council does not use Site Values for rating purposes you may be interested to know of any shift in the market.

Site Values within the township of Elliston generally increased by 5% with some variations both up and down to individual properties.

LOCK

Capital Value: Residential Capital Values received a 15% increase with some variations on this average. Commercial and Industrial also received a 15% increase and vacant land of course follows the site values changes.

Site Value: Site Values in Lock increased by 15%.

VENUS BAY

Capital Value: Generally no increase to Residential Capital Values were applied and vacant land of course follows the site value increase. Some minor variations both up and down on these averages.

Site Value: Site Values in Venus Bay generally were not increased

PORT KENNY

Capital Value: Properties within Port Kenny received a 10% increase from the previous year with some minor variations on this average.

Site Value: Site Values in Port Kenny were increased by 10% with some minor variations on this average. The exception here is Beach Terrace where values were increased by \$5000.

TOWNSHIPS: SHERINGA, BRAMFIELD, MURDINGA, AND TOOLIGIE

Capital Value: Capital values were increased by 5% in Sheringa, 10% in Bramfield and 5% in the balance of the towns. Vacant land of course follows the site values changes.

Site Value: Site Values were increased by 5% in Sheringa, 10% in Bramfield and 5% in the balance of the other towns apart from minor adjustments.

RURAL

Capital Value: Overall there was a 5% increase in broad acre rural land Capital Value.

Site Value: As per Capital Values.

The overall statistical increase from the previous year in **Capital Value** for the various classes of property within the Council area is as follows:

Residential: 3.94%

Commercial: 4.41%

Industrial: 6.27%

Vacant Land: 5.13%

Rural: 5.00%

Overall Increase: A 4.66% increase in Capital Value from the previous year.

To prepare the draft Annual Business Plan rate income has been projected in line with the key assumptions within the Long Term Financial Plan and adjusted accordingly when information was received from the Valuer General's Office.

Council considers the service delivery needs and related expenditure. Rate levels are then determined only after consideration of expenditure priorities in relation to the strategic plan and community needs.

There will continue to be economic pressures applied to the Council in a number of ways, which will have an impact on the Council's budget and therefore put pressure on rates, for example:

- as other tiers of government re-assess their core business, it is likely that local government will be required to provide more services to fill gaps;
- there are fewer funds available to Council via grants from other tiers of government;
- recent natural disasters impacting of the level of funding available;
- as households have less income, the community will become increasingly reliant on local government for the provision of additional services;
- state and Federal Governments are increasingly promoting a philosophy of user-pays for service provision and delivery;
- cost increases which are unavoidable, for example, petrol and water.

There is pressure on Council to minimise rate increases. Rates represent Councils major source of income. In order to respond to the increased service demands and additional costs detailed above, increases in rates will be unavoidable to maintain services.

When projecting and proposing a draft budget, Council have assessed the following key principles.

- That rates represent a general tax levied on the basis of the value of land.
- There is a commitment to the broad principle of fairness and equity in the distribution of rates across all ratepayers.
- Capital value is used as the basis for valuing land within the Council area, as determined by the Valuer-General each year.

- A differential rate applying to residential, commercial, industrial, primary production and other properties and a fixed charge will be applied as a means of raising taxation revenue within the community.
- The Council will, as is required under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, impose a separate rate to fund the operations of the Natural Resources Management Board.
- The Council will provide concessions to eligible ratepayers.
- The Council will continue to accept the payment of rates in full or by four installments provided either choice is received in full on or before the due date shown on the front of the rate notice.
- Pre-payment of rates may be made in installment amounts. Payment can be made at any Council Office, by use of BPay or the Internet.
- The Council will impose late payment penalties strictly in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.
- The Council may enforce the sale of land for non-payment of rates after three years in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.
- The Council will consider any application from a ratepayer to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates on the basis of hardship in accordance with Section 182 or Section 182A of the Local Government Act 1999.
- The Council will apply rebates in accordance with Chapter 10, Division 5 of the Local Government Act 1999.
- The Council advises that a rate cannot be challenged on the basis of non-compliance with the Rate Policy and rates must be paid in accordance with the required payment provisions.

COUNCIL'S REVENUE RAISING POWERS

All land within a Council area, except for land specifically exempt (eg. Crown Land, Council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act 1999), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate, which applies to all rateable properties or through differential general rates which, applies to the use of properties. The Council also raises revenue through fees and charges, which are set, giving consideration to the cost of the service provided and any equity issues.

METHOD USED TO VALUE LAND

The Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value the properties in its area. They are:

- Capital Value – the value of the land and all of the improvements on the land.
- Site Value – the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity or use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements.
- Annual Value – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

The Council has decided to continue to use capital value as the basis for valuing land within the Council area. The Council considers that this method of valuing land provides the fairest method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers on the following basis:

the equity principle of taxation requires that ratepayers of similar wealth pay similar taxes and ratepayers of greater wealth pay more tax than ratepayers of lesser wealth;

Property value is a relatively good indicator of wealth. Capital value, which closely approximates the market value of a property, provides the best indicator of overall property value.

ADOPTION OF VALUATIONS

Council will adopt the valuations made by the Valuer-General as provided to the Council effective 30th June, 2012. If a person is dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then they may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving the notice of the valuation, explaining the basis for the objection - provided the person has not:

- previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, in which case the objection period is 60 days from the receipt of the first notice; or
- previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General. The Council has no role in this process. It is important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for payment of rates.

The 60 day objection period may be extended by the valuer-General where it can be shown there is reasonable cause.

DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

The Council has decided to impose differential general rates on the following properties:

- Residential: 0.004003 cents in the dollar
- Commercial: 0.005003 cents in the dollar
- Industrial: 0.004003 cents in the dollar
- Vacant Land: 0.004003 cents in the dollar
- Primary Industry Zone: 0.005003 cents in the dollar
- Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones: 0.010000 cents in the dollar

Land use is used as the factor to levy differential rates.

CHANGES TO DIFFERENTIAL RATES

The District Council of Elliston proposes to change the basis on which its differential general rates vary:

- Variation according to the zone in which the land is situated.

Council is concerned that the existing model does not reflect the burden placed on Council's resources by various ratepayers, such as those in the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zone. It is therefore Council's intention to introduce differential general rates that more accurately reflect that burden.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Currently, activities within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones generate a high volume of heavy traffic. This heavy vehicle traffic results in deterioration of the road network in these areas which exceeds that in other parts of the Council area. By changing the basis upon which differential general rates vary, this higher burden can be reflected by a higher rate in the dollar imposed on land within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones. This will more accurately reflect the extent of use of Council services and resources rather than spread the burden over the ratepayers as a whole.

RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO COUNCIL'S OVERALL RATE STRUCTURE

The change to Council's overall rate structure is minimal. Council will continue to impose differential general rates on all land within Council's area. It will continue to apply a fixed charge, annual service charges for Community Wastewater Management Systems, Water Supply Service charges and rubbish collection and management and a separate charge included in Council's rates and collected on behalf of the Natural Resources Management Board. Land will still have Capital Value applied for rating purposes.

LIKELY IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGE ON RATEPAYERS

Council's proposed change to the basis on which it varies differential general rates will not impact significantly on ratepayers other than those within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones. It is likely that ratepayers within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones will experience a significant increase in rates payable in the 2012-13 financial year. It is also likely that ratepayers within the Primary Industry Zones will have a marked increase in rates payable in 2012-13. However ratepayers within other zones will experience, on average an increase of CPI plus growth as per Council's Policy and in line with previous years.

ISSUES CONCERNING EQUITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Council has assessed the impact of vehicle traffic generated by ratepayers within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones on its infrastructure. It has determined that the impact caused by ratepayers within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones is significantly higher than that caused by other ratepayers. This has resulted in Council having to dedicate a higher proportion of its funds to maintaining that infrastructure than to other infrastructure within Council's area. In order to address what Council perceives as a disproportionate benefit being obtained by ratepayers within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones, Council is considering a change. It is Council's belief that it is unfair and inequitable to expect all ratepayers to contribute to the cost of activities undertaken by ratepayers within the Commercial (Bulk Handling) Zones and Primary Industry Zones. It is therefore Council's intention, by changing the basis on which its differential general rates vary, to allow Council to provide equity within the community and represent a 'user pays' model.

FIXED CHARGE

The Council will impose a fixed charge of \$250, an increase from \$190 in 2011-12 year. The fixed charge is levied against the whole of an allotment (including land under a separate lease or license) only one fixed charge is levied against two or more pieces of adjoining land (whether intercepted by a road or not) if they are owned by the same owner and occupied by the same occupier. The reasons for imposing a fixed charge is the Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property.

SERVICE CHARGE

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Act, Community Wastewater Management Annual Service Charges based on the nature of the service and varying according to the CWMS Property Units Code in accordance with Regulation 9A(3)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 1999 be declared and imposed on all land to which the Council provides or makes available the prescribed service for the financial year ending 30th June 2013. This includes the areas covered by the Community Wastewater Management Systems (Lock). The annual service charge for the 2012-13 financial year will be \$325 on each property unit for occupied allotment and an annual service charge of \$325 on each vacant allotment.

WATER SUPPLY SERVICE CHARGE

Council imposes an annual service charge on land within Council's area in the township of Port Kenny and sections 21, 72 and 102 Hundred of Wright, to which the Council provides or makes available the prescribed service known as Port Kenny Water Supply Service. The service charge is based on the level of usage of the service.

It is proposed that Council adopt a pricing system consistent with SA Water rates. This would mean a reduction in the 'per kilolitre' charge and the introduction of a quarterly service charge. The quarterly service charge will apply to vacant land where the supply is available for connection to that land. The funds raised from the quarterly service charge would be used for the maintenance and upgrade of the water supply infrastructure.

Current SA Water rates for 2011/12 are as follows:

Residential Water supply	
Water supply annual charge (quarterly amount)	\$ 73:25
0-30kl	\$2:42
30-130kl	\$3:35
Above 130kl	\$3:73

Non-Residential Water supply	
Water supply quarterly annual charge (quarterly amount)	\$ 73:25
Flat Rate per kilolitre charge	\$3:45

CHANGES TO WATER SUPPLY SERVICE CHARGE

The District Council of Elliston proposes to change the format that its water supply service is charged to customers at Port Kenny and Venus Bay. The following changes are proposed:

- Reduction of cost per kilolitre,
- Introduction of an annual charge, applied at a quarterly rate, and
- Charges applied against the property on the rates notice.

Council is concerned that the existing model does not reflect the burden placed on Council's resources by various ratepayers, such as those individuals who utilize the water services at Port Kenny and Venus Bay. It is therefore Council's intention to introduce new charging system that more accurately reflects that burden.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Currently, Council holds no reserve funds with which to maintain and upgrade the water infrastructure. As a result maintenance and upgrades need to be a budget item that is taken from general revenue, therefore effectively all rate payers are contributing to the cost of the system at Port Kenny and Venus Bay. By changing the basis upon which the water supply service charge is implemented, the burden is applied to those rate payers who benefit from the service.

Further to this Council, in accordance with Section 155 (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 1999, *'may impose a service rate, an annual charge or a combination of a service rate and an annual service charge, on rateable land'*. Council will impose a service rate and an annual charge, applied on a quarterly basis. In the past water use was charged per kilolitre charge through an invoicing system. The new system will mean that the water charges are a charge against the land.

RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO COUNCIL'S OVERALL RATE STRUCTURE

The change to Council's water supply service charge will only impact those ratepayers within the water supply zone. Council will no longer invoice those users of water, but will instead apply the charges through the rating system and the charges will be detailed on the rates notice. All other charges on the rates notices will be unchanged.

LIKELY IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGE ON RATEPAYERS

Council's proposed change to the water supply service charge rates will not impact significantly on ratepayers other than those within the water supply zone. It is likely that ratepayers within the water supply zones will experience a slight increase in rates payable in the 2012-13 financial year.

However ratepayers within other zones will not be impacted by the change to the water supply service charge.

ISSUES CONCERNING EQUITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Council has assessed the impact of not applying a quarterly charge and concluded that it has a significant impact on Council's ability to fund for the maintenance and upgrade of the water supply infrastructure. This has resulted in Council having to budget a higher proportion of its funds to maintaining that infrastructure from within general revenue and funded by all ratepayers.

It is Council's belief that it is unfair and inequitable to expect all ratepayers to contribute to the cost of activities undertaken by ratepayers within the water supply zone. It is therefore Council's intention, by changing the basis on which it charges for the water supply service it will provide equity within the community and represent a 'user pays' model.

Money received through the annual charge will be held in reserve for the maintenance and upgrade of the water supply infrastructure.

NRM LEVY

Council collects a regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Levy on all rateable properties on behalf of our regional NRM Board. The Levy funds vital NRM projects and is the new name for contributions South Australian ratepayers have been making for many years through their Water Catchment Management Levies and/or animal and plant control rate revenue contributions from local government.

A fixed rate of \$62 is declared on all rateable land within the Council area and the area of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board in order to reimburse the Council the amount of \$ 58,987 payable to the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board in accordance with the requirements of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 Section 95 (3) (a) (ii) for the financial year ending 30th June 2013.

PENSIONER CONCESSIONS

If you are an eligible pensioner you may be entitled to a rebate on your rates, if you do not currently receive one. An eligible pensioner must hold a Pension Card, State Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card (TPI, EDA, WW). You must also be responsible for the payment of rates on the property for which you are claiming a concession. The State Government administers applications.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS CONCESSIONS

Department of families and Communities (DFC) may assist with the payment of Council rates for your principal place of residence (remissions are not available on vacant land or rental premises). Ratepayers need to contact the Department for Families and Communities office for details.

SELF FUNDED RETIREES CONCESSIONS

A concession has been available from 1st July 2001 and is administered by Revenue SA. If a person is a self-funded retiree and currently hold a State Seniors Card they may be eligible for a concession toward Council Rates. In case of couples, both must qualify, or if only one holds a State Seniors Card, the other must not be in paid

employment for more than 20 hours per week. Further information is available by contacting Revenue SA.

REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT OF RATES

Section 182 of the Local Government Act permits the Council, on the application of the ratepayer, to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates, on the basis of hardship. Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates he/she is invited to contact the Council office to discuss the matter. The Council treats such inquiries confidentially.

POSTPONEMENT OF RATES FOR SENIORS

Ratepayers who hold a State Seniors Card are now able to apply to Council to postpone payment of Council rates on their principal place of residence.

To be eligible for postponement of rates the applicants need to satisfy the following criteria:

- a State Seniors Card holder (or have applied for the card); and
- the property is the principal place of residence (where you live most of the time); and
- no other person, other than the applicant's spouse, has an interest as an owner of the property.

A minimum amount of \$200 of the annual rates must be paid, but any concession entitlement will be deducted from the \$200 minimum amount,

The interest rate which will apply to the amount of rates postponed is prescribed in the Local Government Act (SA) 1999, Section 182 A (12). Interest will be charged and compounded monthly on the total amount postponed, until the debt is paid.

The accrued debt including interest is payable at the time of disposal or sale of the property. However, there is an option for the payment of all or any part of the debt at an earlier time.

PAYMENT OF RATES

Council rates payable by quarterly installments will be due on 15th September 2012, 15th December 2012, 15th March 2013 and 15th June 2013. The total outstanding balance of rates may be paid in full at any time.

Council rates may be paid:

- In person at any Post Office
- In person at Councils Customer Service Centre
- By telephone to the ratepayers participating bank, credit union or building society using BPay
- By Post Billpay service
- By Internet
- By mail (by cheque or by credit card details advised on the Rate Account remittance advice).

(Methods of payment details are out lined on the reverse of the rates notice)

In addition, regular pre payments of Council Rates are allowed at any time and can be made at any Council office, via BPay, via Australia Post or the Internet.

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard arrangements should contact the Rates Officer on 8687 9177 to discuss alternative payment arrangements. Such enquiries are treated confidentially by the Council.

LATE PAYMENT OF RATES

The Council has determined that penalties for late payments will be imposed in accordance with the provisions of Section 181(8) of the Local Government Act 1999 and relevant Council procedures.

Late payment fines are levied in accordance with the provisions of Section 181(8) of the Act. These provisions are the only provisions available to the Council to ensure that all ratepayers pay promptly.

The Act provides that:

- “If an installment of rates is not paid on or before the date on which it falls due:
- the installment will be regarded as being in arrears, and
- a fine of two percent of the amount of the instalment is payable, and
- on the expiration of each full month from that date, interest of the prescribed percentage of the amount in arrears (including the amount of any previous unpaid fine but excluding interest from any previous month) accrues.”

Any ratepayer who may or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard installments and due dates can contact the Council to discuss alternative payment arrangements. It should be noted that fines and interest are still levied in accordance with the Act under any payment arrangement.

Council will consider applications for remissions of fines in certain extenuating circumstances. A request for waiver of fines should be made in writing, setting out detailed reasons why a fine remission has been requested.

When the Council receives a payment in respect of overdue rates, the Council applies the money received as follows:

- First – to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings;
- Second – to satisfy any interest costs;
- Third – in payment of any fines imposed;
- Fourth – in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with the oldest account first).

RECOVERY OF RATES

In accordance with sound financial management principles, the Rates Office will apply prudent debt management practices to Rate Debtors. This includes an ongoing review of rates in arrears and following a systematic debt recovery approach.

Rates, which remain in arrears for a period exceeding 30 days, will be subject to recovery action in accordance with the Councils normal debt recovery procedures.

SALE OF LAND FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RATES

Section 184 of the Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three (3) years or more. The Council is required to notify the owner of the land of its intention to sell the land, provide the owner with details of the outstanding amounts and advise the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one (1) month. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Council will enforce the sale of land for arrears of rates.